

REMARKS

Applicants' would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to this case. Applicants' submission for the Request for Continued Examination includes an information disclosure statement submitted with the filing of this paper.

Claims 1-69, claim 76 and claim 89 stand canceled. Claims 70, 72, 78, 80, and 90 were amended for clarity and antecedent basis.

Item 1. Applicants' maintain that claim 71 further limits claim 70 by requiring that all the through channels are filled with the porous sponge material. Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner's objection be withdrawn. Claim 72 was amended to remove the term "a portion of" and respectfully request that the Examiners objection of this claim be withdrawn. Claim 76 was canceled. The extraneous text in claim 80 was removed.

Item 2. Claim 89 was canceled.

Item 3. Without prejudice, Applicants' request that the Examiner cancel Claims 1-8. Applicants' preserve the right to pursue claims 1-8 in a subsequent continuing application.

Items 4-5. Applicants' request that the Examiner cancel claims 9-11. Applicants' preserve the right to pursue claims 9-11 in a subsequent continuing application.

In view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for final allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested. Although Applicant believes no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. **501-908** for any fees that may be due in connection with this response. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

/John E. Pillion Reg. #522122/

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